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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, keep us always thankful for Your mercy and grace. May we never take for granted Your generous gifts to us and begin and end each day with words of petition, intercession, and thanksgiving.

Continue to bless our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to keep our Nation on the sure foundation of Your righteousness. May our Senators be bastions of moral and spiritual power for the coming of Your kingdom of justice and peace. Lord, give them the higher vision to work with integrity and to be content with the judgment of history and the knowledge of Your approval.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to morning business until 11 a.m. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Act, S. 493. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m., Senator COATS will be recognized to deliver his maiden speech. He will be recognized for up to 30 minutes. Rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the small business jobs bill are possible during today's session.

SBIR/STTR

Mr. REID. Madam President, this bill is another jobs bill. It is a very important bill. I did a press event yesterday with the chairman of the committee, Senator LANDRIEU. It was a good meeting. We talked about some of the things that are happening in our States regarding small business under this program that was developed during President Reagan's administration. Some remarkably good things happen in every State.

As to New Hampshire, I do not know which ones happen there, but there are a number of things in every State. In the State of Nevada, wonderful things have occurred. One of the things a smart man decided is that we should not have 9/11-type incidents where people are trapped and cannot get out of high stories. He has an apparatus that goes up and brings people down. For an initial grant of some \$150,000, he was able to do that.

We have another—a battery that is now being used by the military—for \$180,000. It does all these great things improving batteries in vehicles.

This did not occur in Nevada, but one of the amazing things is the electric toothbrush came about as a result of one of these small grants.

Every State in America has benefited from these grants. The program has worked well for almost 30 years, and we are reauthorizing it. That is what we are doing so these programs can continue.

We hope people will offer amendments to improve this legislation and not detract from it. We would like to complete this legislation this week. We know we have the CR coming over probably tonight sometime. We will have to deal with that. The next work period is going to be filled with a lot of business. We are going to soon have to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act. We have many things to do, but the things we have done so far this year are job creating. Not only the small business legislation I just talked about, but the patent bill, the first revision of that in some 60 years, that is 300,000 jobs. We did FAA reauthorization; that is 280,000 jobs.

I hope the House will complete these measures—we are waiting for them; the President is waiting for these matters—rather than doing what they are doing, which is not job creating.

There is a piece in the Washington Post today about how the Republicans are being so shortsighted. For every

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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